

FEDERAL FACILITIES FORUM TELECONFERENCE

Thursday, July 13, 2000

NEXT FEDERAL FACILITIES FORUM TELECONFERENCE

The next Federal Facilities Forum teleconference is scheduled for August 10, 2000, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. EST. The call-in number is 202-260-7280, access code 2552#. Region 1 will serve as technical lead.

UPDATE ON FALL 2000 TSP MEETING

Craig Thomas (Region 5) reported that the next Technical Support Project (TSP) meeting will be held in Charleston, SC, during the week of October 23, 2000. The Forum is coordinating the development of its 2-day business session agenda with the U.S. Navy, which may provide guest speakers and host a local site visit. Leo Henning (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) reported that the National Ground Water Association will provide an intermediate-level geochemistry course on October 26-27. It is estimated that 15 Forum members will participate in this course. Members expressed preference for a 1.5-day course, rather than a full 2-day course, to allow for travel on Friday afternoon. Due to a potential shortage of hotel accommodations, meeting participants are asked to reserve accommodations promptly when the designated hotels are announced.

FFLC UPDATE

Thomas provided an update on DOD's land use guidance, which was discussed during the last teleconference of the Federal Facilities Leadership Council (FFLC). Discussion had indicated that the guidance is inconsistent with the NCP. In particular, the guidance does not acknowledge that institutional controls (ICs) are remedies that require EPA agreement. The FFLC currently is preparing formal comment on the guidance to address such issues. Forum members noted that "local initiatives" and "stewardship" are other terms used by the COE and DOE, respectively, to describe ICs.

Juan Parra (FFRRO) indicated that parties wishing to review the DOD guidance should request a copy from regional federal facility managers and legal counsel who received copies earlier this year. Allison Abernathy (FFRRO) plans to join the Forum's August teleconference to solicit comment on these and other stakeholder issues at federal facilities.

REGION 10 TECHNICAL ISSUES

Effects of Range Fires at Hanford Nuclear Reservation: Doug Sherwood (Region 10) provided details of the recent fire that threatened DOE's Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington. The fire was caused by an automobile accident in the vicinity of a newly-designated national monument managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS). As the fire spread onto the monument property, the F&WS would not allow fire equipment to enter the burning areas. As a result, the fire encompassed 175,000 acres within several days, and reached an edge of the nearby Hanford Nuclear Reservation's hazardous waste storage tank and disposal areas before coming under control. Although no measurable impact from the fire has been observed, DOE has not released any data. Instead, DOE is relying upon the State of Washington's Department of Health to provide third-party monitoring assistance and serve as a general advocate for the site.

TIO/NAVY/COE Ground Water Optimization Initiative: Harry Craig (Region 10) reported that TIO is working with the COE to develop modeling and ground water optimization projects at numerous DOD sites. Sites at which optimization studies are planned or under consideration include the Umatilla Army Depot, OR, Bangor Naval Submarine Base, WA, Tooele Army Depot, UT, Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant, NE, and Twin Cities Air Force Base, MN. Project managers interested in adding particular sites to this initiative are encouraged to contact Kathy Yager (TIO) at 913-551-7296.

Analysis of Perchlorate in Soil and Rocket Propellants: Craig described problems encountered recently with the removal of perchlorate in demolition areas at Camp Bonneville, WA. Efforts to burn the contaminated material have been unsuccessful. Additional sampling and leaching tests will be conducted, therefore, to better understand the nature and extent of contamination. Other Forum members indicated minimal experience in this type of problem.

OPEN MIKE/REGIONAL ISSUES

Glenn Kistner (Region 9) inquired about the status of work underway to evaluate the extent of carbon tetrachloride contamination at sites with USDA-owned or -operated grain bins, as discussed during the August 1999 Forum teleconference. Scott Marquess (Region 7) indicated that he will contact Lance Elson (FFEO) to obtain an update on FFEO's related findings and any available listing of the affected sites.

Marquess reported that a draft document outlining EPA's FUDS policy has been distributed for regional comment and revised accordingly. Additional comments from EPA management are being solicited to address key issues such as enforceability at both NPL and non-NPL sites. The document is intended to provide a mechanism for ensuring that EPA maintains an oversight role at FUDS and includes these sites in its cleanup ques. The policy specifies that EPA will take enforcement actions in cases where agency agreement is not reached. The document will be distributed to ATSWMO during its July 21, 2000, meeting, and subsequently to the COE and states.

Craig noted that ORD/Las Vegas recently had provided statistical analysis assistance for site characterization involving UXO contamination at a Region 10 DOD site, and had identified problems with DOD's site characterization methods. It is anticipated that FFRRO will assist Region 10 in addressing these problems. Forum members in need of similar statistical analysis support are encouraged to contact Ken Brown (ORD/Las Vegas), or to obtain from Brown a copy of ORD's related report.

ATTENDEES

Bill Roach, Region 2
Gary Schafer, Region 5
Craig Thomas, Region 5
Chris Villarreal, Region 6
Scott Marquess, Region 7
Glenn Kistner, Region 9
Harry Craig, Region 10
Doug Sherwood, Region 10
Leo Henning, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Juan Parra, FFRRO
Sandra Novotny, EMS, Inc.